The Story of the Thief and the Saint

Islamic Stories - Volume 58

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Chapter 1: Acts of Grace Beyond Justice

The Empty-Handed Intruder:

A thief once crept into the home of a devout man. He searched thoroughly throughout the dwelling, seeking anything of value. Despite his efforts, he found nothing. Disappointment overcame him as he realised his labour was in vain.

Unexpected Kindness in Darkness:

The devout man became aware of the thief's presence and perceived his dismay. Instead of reacting with alarm or hostility, he quietly removed the blanket upon which he had been sleeping and laid it across the thief's path—so that the man might not leave entirely empty-handed.

Silent Generosity:

Narrator:

“A thief entered the house of a devout man. He searched for a long time but found nothing. Saddened, he prepared to leave. The devout man, becoming aware of him, placed the blanket he had been sleeping on in the thief’s path—so that he would not go away deprived.”

Chivalry Among the Righteous:

It has been said that those noble ones who walk the path of God never caused grief even to their enemies. Their spiritual excellence was such that their gentleness extended to all—even to those who intended harm.

A Rebuke to the Quarrelsome:

A challenge is posed to the reader: how shall one ever attain the stature of such noble souls, when he remains embroiled in conflict with his own friends?

A Moral Reflection:

Narrator:

“I have heard that the noble ones on God’s path did not even hurt the hearts of their enemies. When will you attain such a rank? You quarrel with your friends and oppose your companions.”